

# COLLOQUY

Webster's Dictionary defines colloquy as mutual discourse. Readers are encouraged to submit additions, corrections and comments about earlier articles appearing in Word Ways. Comments received up to a month prior to publication of an issue will appear in that issue.

In the November 1969 Word Ways, the article "On Searching for Three-L Lamas" pointed out the existence of the words HEADMIS-TRESSSHIP and WALLLESS in the Second Edition of Webster's New International Dictionary, and asked the reader to identify words containing OSSSH and CEEER. The original magnetic tape used in compiling the tetragram list has been searched, yielding the words GODDESSSHIP and PATRONESSSHIP below the line (somewhat inconsistently, DEMIGODDESS-SHIP appeared in Webster's with a hyphen). All other triples turned out to be errors in transcribing the dictionary to the tape. For example, the tape listed the word BOSSSHIP, but Webster's clearly lists it as BOSS-SHIP; even worse, the tape listed WHENCEEER which does not even exist in Webster's, but which is probably an erroneous transcription of WHENCEVER. These last two errors were also discovered by Darryl Francis of Hounslow, Middlesex, England, who consulted a normal and reverse English word list compiled from the same tape. Most other dictionaries fail to confirm the four legitimate Websterian triples. The only exception I know of is The Random House Dictionary of the English Language, which admits GODDESSSHIP.

Philip M. Cohen of Aliquippa, Penna. suggests that the following 15 trigrams be added to "A Dictionary of Common English Trigrams" in the August and November 1969 Word Ways: ABF abfarad, BMH abmho, BYZ byzantine, BZO subzone, CEY acey-deucey, CSE arc-secant, GGB eggbeater, IKY spiky, JIG jig, ISE wise, KDR back-drop, MOT motto, OFP hoofprint, PYW copywriter and RAX thorax. Mr. Cohen is in the process of compiling a much more extensive trigram dictionary including all trigrams in Webster's Unabridged (an additional 1,350), as well as those appearing in geographical place-names, surnames, and so on. Howard W. Bergerson suggests adding the trigrams ABF gabfest and NGG mahjongg.

In the November 1969 Word Ways, the article "Unsociable Housemaid Discourages Facetious Behaviour" listed words for 104 of the 120 possible ways the five vowels can be arranged in a word. A search of a magnetic tape containing the Second Edition of Webster's New International Dictionary has revealed five additional words: IEUAO fieulamort (also found by Darryl Francis), UAIEO unpraiseworthy, OAEUI pyrocatechuic acid, UEIAO pulverizator, and AOIUE laryngofissure. Andrew Griscom of Menlo Park, California suggested that several of the starred words could be replaced by words in the Fifth Edition of Webster's Collegiate Dictionary: AOEUI manoeuvring, EAOUI belabouring, EAUOI preaccustoming, EUAOI rheumatoid, IEAOU tripetalous, IOUEA thiourea, OEIUA nonresidual, OIUEA noninstrumental, OUIEA nonuniversal, UOAIE unpolarized and UOIEA unnoticeably. It is also worth noting that UIAOE multiramose and IOAUE violature replace non-Webster words given in the earlier list. If one allows capitalized words, UIAEO Cuitlateco can also be included. Mr. Griscom also sought a double-AEIOU word, but the best he could find was the coined term quasi-Heteroousian. No genuine word has been found, although counterexcommunication comes fairly close.

The November 1968 and February 1969 issues of Word Ways point out various errors in the Second and Third Editions of Webster's New International Dictionary. Murray R. Pearce of Bismarck, North Dakota has discovered two more in the Second Edition:

- In the 1942 printing, on page 1896 in Part IV of the definitions for plural there appears a list of the singular and plural forms of words of foreign origin. One of these words is SERAPH; however, the singular form is misspelled SERAPHS.
- In the definition of the word JICAMA, the last part of the etymological portion of the definition says "Cf. JICARA, QUAUH-XICALLI". The first word appears in the dictionary, but the second word is nowhere to be found.

"Sea-Changed Words" in the February 1969 Word Ways ended with a lipogrammatical litany addressed to the Deity, using only the eleven letters A, B, C, D, F, H, I, L, P, R, and X. We are now able to report not one but two responses, using the other sixteen letters of the alphabet:

Jove: To me, suggest  
 No joyous quest;  
 O know you must  
 My woe unjust;  
 See noose on tongue,  
 Motets unsung.

Queen Note, quest not, evoke no joke;  
 Unto My new omens, now tune.  
 Oyez, My jests, musty, jejune,  
 Test men's meek zest, keen not, too soon.  
 Enjoy My yoke, not My venom,  
 Momentous tones, My momentum  
 Ekes out, suggests zooms, even woes.  
 Nuggets, My nous jets out, now goes  
 Out to you: enzymes, mementoes.  
 Tense not, sense new events to smoke.

The second poem, written by Walter Shedlofsky of St. Louis, Missouri, contains an acrostic on the initial letters.

In the November 1968 Word Ways, it was suggested that the initials F.X.O'B. on a suitcase almost certainly implied that the owner's name was Francis (or Frank) Xavier O'Brien. A counterexample to this claim has at last been located: there is a man with the name of F.X. O'Byrne living in the Bayside area of Queens, N.Y. according to the most recent telephone directory.

Darryl Francis of Hounslow, Middlesex, England confirms E.N. Gilbert's suspicion that the computer listing of the tetragrams in Webster's New International Dictionary, Second Edition, is incomplete. He suggests that the 613 entries in the bigram table in the November 1969 Word Ways be augmented by VD heavd and QF waqf, both legitimate entries according to Gilbert's criteria.

In the August 1969 issue of Word Ways, J.A. Lindon of Weybridge, Surrey, England presented the first complete solution to the 6-by-10 pentomino rectangle word problem. Since then he has devised an even better solution which is given below (the reader is referred to page 157 of the August issue for the underlying pentomino patterns):

GATHER	HEREAT
UNSPUN	PLEATS
SESAME	ARROWS
STRESS	TESTER
SLEAVE	PEDANT
EREBUS	LIEGES
RANTED	UNSUNS
TEETHE	MESHES
PROWLS	SVELTE
LITTLE	BUTLER